OPPORTUNITIES FROM CHINA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO

Virginia

The U.S.-China Bilateral Agreement on China's accession to the WTO opens an important market to Virginia's exports, benefitting key industries and creating export and employment opportunities. The importance of exports to China and the benefits of the Agreement for Virginia and its key industries are outlined below.

State Export Profile

Virginia exported to China in 1998 goods totaling \$110 million. Virginia's exports to China in 1998 increased 39 percent from the 1993 level of \$79 million. China was Virginia's 24th largest export market in 1998.

Virginia's exports to China are broadly diversified, with most major product categories registering exports to the Chinese market in 1998.

Five Virginia export sectors each recorded sales of more than \$10 million to China in 1998. From 1993 to 1998, several key Virginia export categories registered export growth to China of more than 1,000 percent.

Included in Virginia's 1998 exports to China are sales from a number of metro areas wholly or partially in Virginia: Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV (\$51 million), Richmond-Petersburg (\$33 million) and Norfolk–Virginia Beach–Newport News, VA-NC (\$28 million).

Several Virginia metro areas recorded substantial gains in exports to China from 1993 to 1998. Most notably, Norfolk–Virginia Beach–Newport News posted an increase of 1,408 percent.

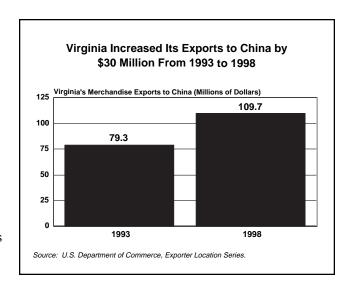
- Tariff elimination for information technology products including electronics; furniture, toys and games. Major tariff reductions for specialized machinery, power generation equipment, medical equipment, scientific and measuring instruments, paper, construction equipment, air conditioning equipment, pumps and compressors, printing machinery, metal working machinery, synthetic yarn, engines, prefabricated buildings, optical fibers, glass fibers, recorded media, agricultural equipment, and environmental technology equipment.
- Low tariffs for most chemicals at WTO harmonization rates.
- Elimination of import restrictions for products such as construction and medical equipment and specialized machinery.

The agreement will open the market for a wide range of services, including telecommunications, banking, insurance, financial, professional, hotel, restaurant, tourism, motion pictures, video distribution, software entertainment distribution, periodicals distribution, business, computer, environmental, and distribution and related services.

Sector Snapshot

U.S. farmers no longer will have to compete with export subsidies on China's agricultural products. China has agreed also to eliminate sanitary and phytosanitary barriers that are not based on sound scientific evidence, such as the restrictions on meat and poultry. In addition, exporters will benefit from broadening the right to import and distribute imported products in China and from tariff cuts on a wide range of products including beef, poultry, and tobacco.

As a result of the Agreement, Virginia's key export sectors benefit from reduced tariffs in China, strong intellectual property protection and improved trade rules protecting U.S. industries against unfair trade practices and removing burdensome obstacles, including:



Key Industry Benefits

Paper

China will reduce its tariffs on paper and paper products to an average of 5.4 percent. Reductions will begin upon accession and will be fully implemented by January 1, 2005, in annual cuts with significant initial tariff cuts on priority paper products. Tariffs on U.S. priority paper products will reach 2 percent or 5 percent by 2004. If WTO members agree to and adopt the forest products sectoral initiative that originated in APEC, China has committed to join this initiative and eliminate its tariffs on paper and other forest products. For paper products, China has agreed to provide treatment to the United States on par with China's preferential programs for other countries. China has agreed to apply tariffs uniformly and all taxes equally to domestic and foreign paper businesses. This will alleviate the uncertainty associated with China's inconsistent application, refund, and waivers of its 17 percent value added tax. Trading and distribution rights for paper products will be phased in over three years.

Power Generation Equipment

China will reduce its tariffs on power generation equipment including generators, turbines, boilers, parts of auxiliary plants, motors, transformers, and batteries from an average of 13.4 percent to an average of 8.5 percent by January 1, 2004. If WTO members agree to and adopt the energy sectoral initiative that originated in APEC, China will join this initiative and eliminate its tariffs on these products. Trading and distribution rights for power generation equipment will be phased in over three years. Within four years of its accession into the WTO, China will eliminate its tendering requirements for non-government purchases of power generation equipment. China will not apply or enforce export performance or local content requirements as a condition for importation or investment approval. China has agreed to apply tariffs uniformly and all taxes equally to domestic and foreign power generation equipment businesses. This will alleviate the uncertainty associated with China's inconsistent application, refund, and waivers of its 17 percent value added tax.

Synthetic Yarn, Tow and Fibers

China will reduce its tariffs on synthetic yarn 72 percent, from an average of 18.1 percent to an average of 5 percent, by January 1, 2004. Quotas and licenses on polyester yarn will be phased out by 2001 with an initial quota level of .529 million metric tons. Quotas and licenses on synthetic filament tow will be phased out by 2001 with an initial quota level of .113 million metric tons. Quotas and licenses on synthetic staple fibers will be phased out by 2001 with an initial level of .852 million metric tons. Quota levels will grow 15 percent annually until eliminated. Trading and distribution rights for synthetic yarn will be phased in over three years. China will not apply or enforce export

pe fo mance o local content equi ements as a condition for importation or investment approval. China has agreed to apply tariffs uniformly and all taxes equally to domestic and foreign synthetic yarn businesses. This will alleviate the uncertainty associated with China's inconsistent application, refund, and waivers of its 17 percent value added tax.

Information Technology

China will eliminate its duties for all information technology products, as defined by the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA), by January 1, 2005. These products include electronics, computers, fiber optic cable, and other telecommunications equipment. The current duties on information technology products average over 13 percent. All quotas on ITA products will be eliminated at the time of China's WTO accession. Within four years of its accession into the WTO, China will eliminate its tendering requirements for non-government purchases of ITA products. Trading and distribution rights for ITA products will be phased in over three years. China has agreed to apply tariffs uniformly and all taxes equally to domestic and foreign ITA businesses. This will alleviate the uncertainty associated with China's inconsistent application, refund, and waivers of its 17 percent value added tax. China has agreed that it will not condition import or investment approvals on technology transfer, or on conducting research and development in China.

Scientific and Measuring Instruments

China will reduce its tariffs on scientific instruments from an average of 12.1 percent to 6.1 percent. Reductions will commence upon accession and will be completed by January 1, 2003, in equal annual cuts. If WTO members agree to and adopt the medical and scientific equipment sectoral initiative that originated in APEC, China has committed to join this initiative and eliminate its tariffs on these products. Tendering requirements for non-government purchases of scientific instruments will be eliminated within four years of China's WTO accession. Trading and distribution rights for scientific instruments will be phased in over three years. China has agreed to implement the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights upon accession to the WTO.

Toys and Games

This sector includes toys, games, and game equipment such as bowling equipment. China will eliminate tariffs on products in the Uruguay Round sectoral initiative on toys by January 1, 2005. Tariff rates as high as 35 percent will be reduced in equal annual cuts until they are eliminated in 2005. Trading and distribution rights for toys will be phased in over a three year period following China's accession. In order to alleviate the uncertainty associated with China's inconsistent application, refund, and waivers

of its 17 pe cent value added tax, China has ag eed to apply tariffs uniformly and all taxes equally to domestic and foreign toy and game businesses. Toy standards and statutory inspection will be addressed in the multilateral negotiations on China's Protocol and Working Party Report.

Beef

China currently imports very little beef, but income growth and rising demand from urban centers are expected to result in significantly increased demand for imports. Under its WTO accession agreement, China will lower its tariff from 45 percent to 12 percent on frozen beef and from 45 percent to 25 percent on chilled beef by 2004. Tariffs on variety meats will be lowered from 20 percent to 12 percent. There will be no quantity limits at these tariff levels. As a result of the 1999 U.S.-China Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation, China agreed to accept all beef from the United States that is accompanied by a USDA certificate of wholesomeness.

Poultry Meat

With imports accounting for 12 percent of total consumption, China is already the second leading market for U.S. poultry meat exports. Under its WTO accession agreement, China will cut its tariff in half (from 20 percent to 10 percent) by 2004 for frozen poultry meat cuts. There will be no quantity limits at these tariff levels. As a result of the 1999 U.S.-China Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation, China agreed to accept all poultry meat from the United States that is certified wholesome by USDA.

Environmental Services

For key environmental services, China will allow foreign service suppliers to provide environmental consultation th ough c oss-bo de delive . Othe foreign environmental service providers may operate in China through a joint venture. China has also agreed to grandfather the existing level of market access already in effect at the time of China's accession for U.S. companies currently operating in China.

Trade Stories

AMF Bowling Center Equipment (Mechanicsville) employs more than 640 people in the United States, 400 of whom are in Mechanicsville. The company has been exporting bowling center equipment including pin spotters, ball return machines, scoring systems, and flooring (lanes) to China for more than 20 years. In 1997, China accounted for about 40 percent of AMF's revenue. Its sales to China were devastated in 1998 when China raised its tariffs on AMF's products to more than 40 percent. Now AMF's sales to China account for only about 5 percent of its total revenue. Once in the WTO, China will reduce its tariffs on bowling equipment to zero by the year 2005.

Peters Equipment Co., L.L.C. (Bluefield) is a leading designer and manufacturer of coal washing equipment and parts. Because of the volume of coal that China burns and because China is so far behind the United States in terms of environmental standards, the Chinese are just beginning to recognize the desirability of cleaner coal. Thus, Peters Equipment is poised to take advantage of the potential market there. Last year, Peters Equipment sold approximately \$1,000,000 worth of its machinery and replacement parts in China.

ROLE OF SMES IN EXPORTS TO CHINA

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are responsible for a growing share of U.S. exports to China.

- In 1997, SMEs generated 35 percent—more than onethird—of all U.S. merchandise exports to China. This figure is up significantly from a 28 percent share in 1992.
- The 35 percent SME share of the China market in 1997 was higher than the SME share of overall U.S. merchandise exports (31 percent) in that year.
- More than half of all firms exporting from Virginia to China in 1997 were small or medium-sized enterprises (fewer than 500 employees).

Small & Medium-Sized Companies Account for 54 Percent Of All Firms Exporting From Virginia to China Small 35% Large

160 companies exported merchandise from Virginia to China in 1997

Definitions: small = fewer than 100 employees; medium = 100–499 employees; large = 500 or more employees. Source: 1997 Exporter Data Base, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Overview of China WTO Accession Benefits to the United States

The Agreement is a one-way deal that will open China's now largely closed market to U.S. exports. By enacting Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), the United States is merely maintaining the market access policies it already applies to China. If Congress enacts PNTR, the agreement is expected to provide a substantial boost for U.S. exports. If Congress fails to pass PNTR, American companies, workers and farmers will be denied the great bulk of benefits of the agreement the United States already negotiated—including broad new market access for critical services such as telecommunications and distribution, strong import protections, and the right to enforce China's commitments through WTO dispute settlement. Failure to enact PNTR means fewer U.S. exports to China. U.S. competitors in Europe, Asia and elsewhere will gain market share at the expense of U.S. exporters as these countries will enjoy the full benefits of China's market opening WTO commitments.

Deep cuts for tariffs in manufactured products sectors¹ affecting most U.S. exports—averaging an across-the-board 60 percent cut in tariffs for industrial products. Important gains include a 62.5 percent cut in tariffs for pulp, paper and printed material and elimination of tariffs for information technology products including electronics, telecommunications equipment, and computer equipment.

Tariff bindings for every sector. U.S. industries gain greater certainty of access with China's commitment not to raise tariffs on any products above the negotiated ceiling (bound) rates.

Huge reduction in paperwork costs—a boon to smaller exporters. Simplification, harmonization of customs procedures and licensing will slash costs of processing export orders.

Elimination of quotas and non-automatic licenses for all manufactured products by year 2005. Only a handful of quotas will remain after year 2003. While quotas are being phased out, the quota level will be higher than our current export levels and will increase by 15 percent each year until the quota is eliminated.

By joining the WTO, China is committing to establish a tariff-only import regime for **agricultural products**; all non-tariff barriers will be eliminated. Any other measure, such as inspection, testing, and domestic taxes, must be applied in a manner that is consistent with WTO rules requiring a transparent and nondiscriminatory system. All health-related restrictions must be based on sound science.

China also committed to implementing **agriculture tariff-rate quotas** (TRQs) on economic rather than political criteria. These commitments are designed to ensure a transparent and consistent system for allocating shares of the TRQ to end users and provisions to

ensure that quota-holders are not impeded in utilizing their allocations.

China has committed not to use **export subsidies** for agricultural products when it joins the WTO. This commitment is particularly useful for China's potential exports of corn, rice, and cotton, which in the past have displaced U.S. product from third-country markets.

Bilaterally, China agreed to the terms for removal of scientifically unjustified restrictions on importation of U.S. wheat and other grains, citrus and meat.

Foreign exchange balancing requirements—which link a company's level of imports to its level of exports—will be eliminated upon accession. This allows U.S. companies to make market-driven decisions about what to import and export instead of decisions driven by the Chinese government.

Local currency banking will be allowed starting with foreign clients upon accession, followed by Chinese enterprises two years after accession and Chinese individuals five years after accession. Foreign currency business will be allowed without geographic restrictions upon accession. China currently limits foreign banks to foreign currency business in selected cities.

Foreign securities firms may currently only trade in a limited number of stocks designated for foreign investors and then only via shared commissions. Upon accession, China will allow foreign firms to trade these shares with no Chinese intermediary. By three years after accession, foreign entities may establish securities joint ventures (JVs) with a minority equity share for foreign investors to underwrite all shares and corporate and government debt, and trade all these securities except those equity shares restricted to Chinese investors. Also upon accession, foreign entities may establish minority JVs to manage assets of all sorts.

Insurance licenses will be granted on a prudential basis, without numerical restrictions or discretionary economic needs tests. China currently only allows selected foreign companies (including four U.S. companies) to operate in China on a limited basis in only two cities.

Majority equity share for foreign non-life insurance entities will be permitted upon China's accession. Wholly owned subsidiaries will be allowed two years after accession. Life insurance joint ventures will be permitted at 50 percent equity share upon accession.

Easier access to and more control of distribution systems in China allowing U.S. companies to operate commission agents' services, franchising services, wholesaling, retailing and direct sales of their own products in three years post accession for almost all products.

Foreign companies will also be permitted greater control and access to other services related to distribution, including maintenance and repair, rental and leasing, advertising, technical testing and freight inspection, packaging, courier, storage and warehousing, and freight forwarding agency services.

The right to trade (import and export) will be permitted for almost all products within three years of accession. Currently, the right to trade is strictly limited; only companies that receive specific authorization or who import goods to be used in production have such rights.

Telecommunications services are currently not permitted to be supplied by foreigners in China. However, with its accession, China has agreed to allow foreign participation for both value-added and basic services. China has also agreed to undertake all the obligations contained in the WTO Reference Paper on pro-competitive regulatory principles. Telecom services which foreigners can supply under the Agreement include email, voice mail, online information and database retrieval, facsimile, paging, cellular, and internet services via any technology including satellites.

Professional service providers will now be permitted to operate in China and receive national treatment for accounting, auditing, bookkeeping, management consulting, legal, tax consulting, architectural, engineering, and computer services.

The elimination of local content requirements will result in better access for U.S. exports and eliminate unfair incentives or requirements to use domestic goods.

U.S. exports and investments will be free from government-imposed conditions such as technology transfer, research and development in China, and offsets. Upon China's accession, such conditions may only be negotiated between the parties to a contract and not imposed or enforced by the government.

U.S. companies can sell their products in China and not be forced to export a certain percentage back to the United States or elsewhere. This eliminates the non-market incentive to use China as an export platform.

State-owned and state-invested enterprises will be required to buy and sell based on commercial considerations, making the purchase process more market-driven and transparent for U.S. companies and will provide new sales opportunities to U.S. firms.

China has agreed to establish **judicial review** procedures for the prompt review of all administrative actions relating to the implementation of laws, regulations, judicial decisions and administrative rulings related to its WTO obligations. The tribunals will be independent of the agencies entrusted with administrative enforcement.

Greatly improved enforcement of China's commiments through the WTO dispute settlement process. The United States will now have allies in other WTO members to address violations of international trade norms.

Current U.S. practice of using a special, non-market economy methodology when calculating dumping margins in **antidumping investigations** involving imports from China will remain in effect for 15 years. Chinese industries will continue to have the burden of proving to the U.S. government that market economy conditions prevail in their industry to avoid application of this methodology.

China will apply its trade-related laws **uniformly** throughout all of China including land and seaports.

China will be required to apply equally the valueadded tax (currently at 17 percent for most products) to domestic goods as well as imports under the WTO **national treatment** provisions.

The United States will have access to a **product-specific safeguard mechanism** for 12 years which will allow the U.S. to address more easily any rapidly increasing Chinese imports in a targeted fashion in cases of actual or threatened market disruption to a U.S. industry.

China has agreed to incorporate into the WTO a **textile-specific safeguard** drawn from the U.S.-China Bilateral Textile Agreement.

¹For more information on tariff reductions, see tariff summary table.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

The reports for each of the 50 states are available at www.chinapntr.gov, as well as supplemental information on the benefits of China's membership in the World Trade Organization for U.S. industry and agriculture. Additional information on agricultural products is available from www.fas.usda.gov and speeches and testimony are provided on www.ustr.gov.

For counseling and assistance regarding exporting to China, call the Trade Information Center at 1-800-USA TRAD(E) or the Agriculture FAS Trade Assistance Office at 202-720-7420.

To discuss problems you are experiencing in exporting to China or a Chinese trade barrier you are encountering that is limiting your ability to export, please contact the Commerce Department's Trade Compliance Center. The fastest means to contact the Trade Compliance Center is the internet at http://www.mac.doc.gov/tcc. It can be reached also via e-mail (tcc@ita.doc.gov), fax (202-482-6097), or phone (202-482-1191).

Key Industry Tariff Reductions Resulting from the Agreement

Product A Description	Average Base Rate ¹	Average End Rate ²	Percent Change	Product Description	Average Base Rate ¹	Average End Rate ²	Percent Change
Agriculture equipment	11.5	5.7	50.4	Nonferrous metals	9.3	6.6	29.0
Auto parts	23.4	10.0	57.2	Aluminum	14.2	9.4	34.0
Beer	70.0	0	100.0	Oil and fuel	7.4	4.9	33.7
Building materials	16.4	14.1	14.0	Paper and printing machinery	14.3	10.8	24.5
Glass fibers	16.0	7.0	56.2	Photographic	14.5	10.0	24.3
Chemicals	11.1	6.9	37.8	equipment	19.4	14.7	24.2
Cosmetics Fertilizers	29.3 5.0	11.9 4.0	59.3 20.0	Power generation			
Pharmaceuticals	9.6	4.0	56.2	equipment			
Soda ash	9.0	5.5	38.8	including batteries	13.4	8.5	36.6
Civil aircraft	14.7	8.1	44.9	Precious metals	13.8	11.0	20.0
Compressors and pumps	15.5	9.0	41.9	Prefabricated buildings	22.0	10.0	54.5
Construction equipment	13.6	6.3	53.7	Pulp, paper and printed			
Distilled spirits	60.8	34.2	44.0	material	14.4	5.4	62.5
Engines	12.4	7.9	36.2	Railway equipment	5.7	4.4	22.8
Environmental tech-				Recorded media	10.0	6.8	32.0
nologies equipment	13.4	6.9	48.5	Rubber products	14.5	11.4	21.4
Fish	20.5	11.4	44.3	Rubber- and plastic-	157	7.7	50.9
Food processing				working machinery	15.7	7.7	30.9
machinery	13.5	9.8	27.4	Scientific and measurin equipment	g 12.1	6.1	49.6
Footwear	25.0	20.8	16.8	Small household	12.1	0.1	17.0
Footwear machinery	11.5	8.4	26.9	appliances	31.2	24.7	20.8
Furniture	22.0	0	100.0	Special purpose vehicle	s 17.4	12.4	28.7
Heavy machinery	14.5	7.8	46.2	Specialized machinery	14.0	8.4	40.0
Husbandry machinery	10.3	7.3	29.1	Steel	10.3	6.1	40.7
HVAC ³	24.3	15.2	37.4	Telecommunications		***	
Information technology				equipment not			
covered under ITA ⁴	13.5	0	100.0	covered under ITA ⁴	24.0	17.2	28.3
Laboratory machinery	12.9	10.2	20.9	Optical fibers	13.5	2.5	81.4
Leather	18.7	16.2	13.3	Textiles and apparel	27.1	11.7	56.8
Machinery parts	8.1	4.7	41.9	Synthetic yarn	18.1	5.0	72.3
Medical equipment	9.9	4.4	55.5	Toys	23.0	0	100.0
Metalworking machinery		11.4	24.5	Trailers	13.8	10.0	27.5
Molds	10.2	7.3	28.4	Trucks	31.5	18.5	41.2
Motorcycles	58.3	41.7	28.5	Vending machines	23.0	13.6	40.8
Motor vehicles	75.9	23.6	68.9	Welding machines	14.8	9.8	33.7
Passenger motor vehicles	84.1	25.0	70.0	Wood	12.5	4.6	63.2

¹Average 1997–98 applied duties for each product category. Reductions will be made from the 1997–98 base rate for each tariff line. Most cuts will be made in equal annual increments.

²Average end rate for each product category which will be attained once China phases in all duty reductions agreed bilaterally with the United States. All reductions will be completed by January 1, 2008, with 70 percent of all reductions on industrial goods achieved by 2003 and 98 percent of all industrial duty reductions by 2005. China's agreements with other countries may result in lower rates and shorter staging.

³Includes heaters, ventilators, air conditioners, washers, refrigerators, centrifuges/dryers.

⁴WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA), implemented in July 1997.

Key Agricultural Tariff Reductions Resulting from the Agreement

Product Description	Base Rate 1997-98 ¹	End Rate ²	Percent Change	Product 1 Description	Base Rate 1997-98 ¹	End Rate ²	Percen Change
Beef	45	12	73.3	Pecans	35	10	71.4
Pork	20	12	40.0	Pistachios	35	10	71.4
Poultry	20	10	50.0	Cheese	50	12	76.0
Oranges	40	12	70.0	Lactose	35	10	71.4
Grapefruit	40	12	70.0	Ice cream	45	19	57.8
Lemons	40	12	70.0	Yogurt	50	10	80.0
Apples	30	10	66.7	Hop cone pellets	30	10	66.7
Cherries	30	10	66.7	Hop extracts	20	10	50.0
Grapes	40	13	67.5	Ginseng	40	10	75.0
Pears	30	10	66.7	Soybean flour	40	15	62.5
Peaches	30	10	66.7	Potatoes: Frozen			
Canned peaches	30	10	66.7	hash browns	25	13	48.0
Raisins	40	10	75.0	Potato flour, meal and	20	1.5	50.0
Orange/grapefruit juice	es 35	15	57.1	flakes	30	15	50.0
Celery	13	10	23.1	Potato chips	25	15	40.0
Lettuce	16	10	37.5	Yellow grease	40	10	75.0
Cauliflower	13	10	23.1	Soup	45	15	66.7
Broccoli	13	10	23.1	Pet food	30	15	50.0
Frozen mixed vegetabl	les 13	10	23.1	Wine	65	20	69.2
Frozen sweet corn	13	10	23.1	Protein concentrates	45	10	77.8
Tomato paste	25	20	20.0	Water-based drinks wit sugar	h 65	20	69.2
Tomato ketchup	30	15	50.0	Other water-based drin		35	30.0
Almonds	30	10	66.7	Cigarettes	65	25	61.5
Hazelnuts	35	10	71.4	Tobacco	40	10	75.0

¹Base rate: 1998 current applied duty from which reductions will be made.

Key Agricultural Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ)

Product Description	Initial TRQ (million metric tons)	2004 TRQ (million metric tons)	Private Share (percent)	1999 Chinese Impor s ³ (metric tons)
Wheat	7.3	9.6	10	448,000
Corn	4.5	7.2	25 growing to 40	70,000
Rice				168,000
Short/medium grain	1.3	2.6	50	
Long grain	1.3	2.6	10	
Cotton	0.743	0.9	67	46,000
Soybean oil ⁴	1.71	3.2	50 growing to 90	804,000

³Import data from China Customs Administration, on a calendar year basis.

²End rate: End rate that will be attained by January 1, 2004, when China finishes phasing in all agricultural duty reductions agreed bilaterally with the United States. China's agreements with other countries may result in lower rates and shorter staging for some products.

⁴TRQ quantity and private share will be phased in by 2005. On January 1, 2006, China will eliminate the TRQ and state trading for soybean oil, with nothing but a 9 percent duty remaining.